

December 2020 Newsletter

Western Edge Parish (Peace Lutheran, Dickinson & St. John's Lutheran, Richardton)

Serving the community in partnership.

From the Pastor - December 2020

As I write this newsletter article from my office, Peace Lutheran Church in Dickinson has been transformed into a lefse making factory. It is an annual tradition and fund raiser for this church to make and sell lefse to the community for the holidays. The entire floor in the fellowship hall has been covered with a protective heavy duty plastic (I'm told it comes from the oil field, some sort liner for ponds or something). Tables have been set out around the perimeter of the room. Griddles, lefse boards, flat wooden sticks, towels to hold the cooling rounds, bowls of flour and rolling pins cover the surface of the tables. Extension cords stretch to every corner of the church to pull current to heat the griddles. Congregational members of every age assemble safely with mask and glove to participate in this annual tradition.

As we engage in this activity, I am consciously aware that many traditions that take place at this time of year will have to be postponed, cancelled, or reinvented. Both churches and families have to make tough decisions about what to do and what not to do in an effort to keep ourselves, our neighbors, and our communities safe this year. For all of us, this is our first time entering into the holidays during a pandemic. Unfortunately, I have been hearing a new phrase being used as of late: COVID fatigue. We are exhausted from the changes, challenges and restrictions that have come from this new disease thus far. Going into our "favorite time of year" already discouraged and exhausted will not set well when we have to adjust our traditions.

This time of year always begins with the season of Advent, a time of waiting for a promised hope. For most of us, we have been in a season of Advent for nearly a year. We are waiting for this pandemic to come to an end. We are waiting for a cure or at least a vaccine to stop this virus' destruction. And we are waiting for our lives to go back to normal. Christians are descendants of Advent people. Our ancestors waited for the promised hope to come in the Messiah for hundreds of years! I wonder what they called their fatigue. I wonder how they endured for as long as they did. I wonder what traditions they had to put on hold and what new traditions were developed while waiting for and after hope's arrival.



Knowing the patience of those who waited for the Messiah gives me encouragement to wait a few more months for us to get through this pandemic. The powerful season of Advent reminds us every year that our waiting pays off, that God is faithful, that light comes in the darkness, that we have a Savior, that we have hope!!

Thanksgiving, Christmas, your birthday, your annual vacation may all look different this year. Traditions, expectations, and activities will all have to be adjusted and for good reason. But our waiting will pay off some day. And I promise it will not take a hundred years! Just think how long the world waited for a Messiah. Eventually, our Savior comes, often in unexpected ways.

May God bless your Advent waiting and your Christmas joy.

With Peace,

Pastor Mike Pretzer

Caring Hands for December

April, August, & December

Naomi Thorson

Roene Hulsing

Pat & David Rinn

Tammy Sadowsky

Judy & Richard Koffler

Joyce Crawford

Marilyn Huschka

Travis & Crissie Kupper

Jami & Brock Swensrud

Adam & Susie Karpyak

Shawn & Chelsea Skogen

Gaye Soehren

During your month, sign up (or email or call the church) to help with the following worship/fellowship needs. You can sign up in pairs to help each other out with worship and fellowship duties, if desired. Sign up sheets are located at the church along with a signup sheet for mowing.

-Worship hosts

-Greet people and hand them a bulletin

-Make sure the candles are lit

-Collect offering

-Fellowship hosts

-Make a pot of coffee/heat the water kettle for tea

-Provide some kind of snacks (bars, fruit, toast, meat/cheese, cookies, etc)

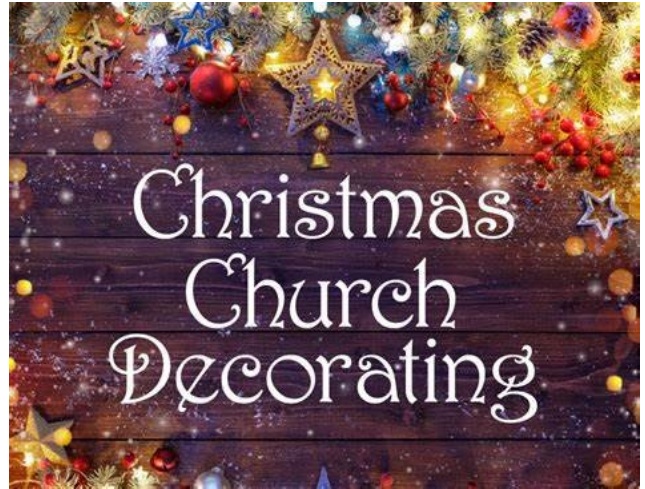
Thank You to All Who Made Peace Lutheran's Lefse Fundraiser a Success!

Thank you to all who donated items, set-up, cleaned-up, made the lefse and who continue to sell it this week! Again this year, we have a generous member of Peace Lutheran who will match the total amount raised from this fundraiser! WOW and THANK YOU! If you want a peek at the lefse making this year, see Pastor Mike's Devotion from the Badlands from Monday, November 23rd on Facebook.



Church Decorating on December 2nd

After Wednesday Night Worship while the youth are in faith formation, the parents and any other church members are asked to stay at the church and decorate for Christmas. We will put up the tree, lights and wreaths on the windows. All are welcome to come and help decorate!



PRAYERS FOR HEALING,

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Deidra Shannon (Terry H. cousin)
Megan Grabow (Shelby & Derek Sister-in-Law)
Navah DenHerder
Ervin & Florence Heidecker
Eric Sellers (Cancer)
Tammy McReynolds (Terry Halversons Sister)
Matt Ellerkamp (Brain Tumor Treatment)
Lea Madler (Lung Cancer)
Bonnie Heidecker (Throat Cancer)
Beth Fugle (Candy H. Sister- Cancer)
Holly (Cancer)
Sharon Meissel (cancer)
Lakin Dvorak
Jackson Portra & his Parents Jared & Mandy Portra
Stanley Lang
Family of Raymond Hushka
Monica Hushka

COMMUNITY PRAYERS:

All those serving in the military & their families. Our partner congregation, St. John's Lutheran in Richardton, Lutheran Social Services, Badlands Ministries, the Ministries in the Central African Republic.

ST. JOHN'S IN RICHARDTON

Harrison Job Magstadt & his parents Haley & Nathan Magstadt
Kristin Johnson
James Hauter (Lynn Johnson's Father)
Welde Heinle- Recurrence of cancer
Arlyne Magstad
Shirley Kitzan
Dee Homelvig -Chemotherapy
Emmalou Lavine (Armin's Sister)
Holly (Cancer)
Pam (Cancer)
Family of Gaitte Gebhardt
Steve and Kayla Olson and unborn son Luke

WNW Schedule

December 2nd

6:30 pm– Worship
7:00– Faith Formation

December 9th

6:30 pm– Worship
7:00 pm– Faith Formation

December 16

6:30 pm– Worship
7:00 pm– Snoop Party
Theme/Activity– Snoop Party! Bring a secret item in a bag.

December 23rd

No worship or Faith Formation

December 30

No worship or Faith Formation

*schedule is subject to change

Other Events In December

Dec. 15- Council Meeting @ 7pm
Dec 24– Christmas Eve Service
4pm @ St. Johns
6pm @ Peace Lutheran



Mark Your Calendar

» UPCOMING EVENTS

A MESSAGE FROM BISHOP CRAIG SCHWEITZER

"Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing." 1 Thessalonians 5:11

This affirmation from the Apostle Paul was part of worship recently. It was something that has stuck with me in ways I did not expect. And in ways that one verse of scripture heard during a worship service rarely does. Encourage one another. Really? Build up each other. Huh? As indeed you are doing. Wait a minute Paul, seriously?? Have you seen social media lately? Have you heard the news or read a newspaper? Encourage? Build up?

I was a bit confused and more than a little challenged by Paul's affirmation. Whenever this happens, it often sends me into a time of silence. A time sitting in stillness with these sacred words. So that's what I did. And in the stillness my eyes were once again opened to the many ways and places we are indeed encouraging one another and building each other up during a year that is unlike any other in our lifetime.

We are gathering in community for worship – either in-person or online. We are praying for one another through email, text messages and phone calls. We are feeding one another through sacraments or a delivered meal. We are crying with one another as the effects of COVID-19 impact every facet of our life. We are encouraging one another when many of us are just plain exhausted from yet another Zoom meeting. We are building each other up so the good news of Jesus can be shared with every child of God placed before us.

Sisters and brothers in Christ of the Western North Dakota Synod – you indeed are doing these things. I've already witnessed it in my short time serving as your Bishop. In this season of thanksgiving, I simply want to say...thank you! AND – let's keep going. Let's keep encouraging and building and praying and serving and loving because that is what God is calling us to do as followers of the risen Savior Jesus.

Happy Thanksgiving and blessed Advent be with you. And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you always.



Bishop Craig Schweitzer

Council Meeting Minutes – November 17, 7:00 PM

Present: Jeff Anderson, Jessica Bertelson, Bev Holdahl, Marilyn Huschka, Travis Kupper, Pastor Mike Pretzer, and Kim Jones. Absent: Heather Fagerberg, Lola Huschka, Derek Jilek and Tammy Sadowsky.

1) Bev called the meeting to order. 2) Pastor Mike shared devotion and prayer. "Love is our deepest identity".

3) Minutes MSC Jeff/Marilyn

4) Agenda – no additions

5) Leadership Reports –

Pastor's Report – Pastor will be leading services in New England 11/22/20; Tim Holdahl to lead at Peace and St John's. Pastor will be taking some vacations days the week of 11/22/20. At the recent W-ND Synod meeting, discussion held regarding following recommendations of the Governor's Executive order for Covid. Churches are not mandated to follow, but there are some good guidelines. There will be discussion regarding Christmas Eve services next council meeting. Christmas decorating - plan to do after Wednesday service December 2. Need to get advent wreath and banners up by 11/29.

B. Still need replacement for Heather/treasurer position on council

6) Stewardship

Small Business Administration PPP- on hold

Financial report-no report

Lefse weekend is November 18-21. Wednesday, youth will set up at 5 PM. Lefse rolling Wednesday through Saturday. Lefse will be sold Saturday 9-5pm.

7) Worship

Devotion from the Badlands – Pastor continues to contribute devotional on Facebook each week.

Joint Thanksgiving Eve services to be live streamed on Facebook, November 25 at 7 pm.

8) Faith Formation

A. Kool Gang /Confirmation– boxes assembled for Operation Christmas Child. Youth to set up for lefse making.

9) Community Partnerships

Community Garden- Sign is up, thank you to Jeff Anderson for framing and Halvorson's for putting it up.

Preschools – doing well, system set up to promote distancing for kids.

AA meetings – groups meeting again at the church

10) Building and Property

Parking Lot – Pastor had an idea for possible fundraising – Live Nativity for Christmas, could ask for entrance fee or free-will offering.

Snow removal – Bev got a quote from D&L Lawn service - \$85. Bev to contact.

Church sign – damage from recent winds. Pastor to report to insurance to see if it would covered, need to get estimate of damage

11) Communication

A. Newsletter – December newsletter in the works.

B. Constant Contact –details on lefse fundraiser

C. Facebook – church services live stream, going OK. Learning process to see what works best.

12) Next Meeting Date – December 15, 7 pm. Closed with the Lord's Prayer and meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Kim Jones

SJR— St. John's in Richardton KA— Kid Academy Preschool (Monday-Thursday)

R2B— Room to Bloom Preschool (Tuesday/Thursday) AA-Alcoholics Anonymous

December 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 WNNW 6:30PM	3	4	5 AA 8-12
6 Peace Worship-10AM SJR— 8 AM	7	8	9 WNNW 6:30PM	10	11	12 AA 8-12
13 Peace Worship-10AM SJR— 8 AM	14	15 Council Meeting 7pm	16 WNNW 6:30 PM Snoop Party	17	18	19 AA 8-12
20 Peace Worship-10AM SJR— 8AM	21	22	23 NO WNNW 6:30 PM	24 Christmas Eve Service St. Johns @ 4pm Peace @ 6pm	25 Christmas Day	26 AA 8-12
27 Peace Worship 10am SJR— 8AM	28	29	30 NO WNNW 6:30 PM New Years Eve			

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